



Director of
Central
Intelligence

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USSR: Impending Personnel Changes

The Central Committee plenum--which probably will be held on Monday--and the Supreme Soviet session on Tuesday will provide the first solid measure of General Secretary Andropov's ability to dominate the Politburo. [REDACTED]

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Comment: The Central Committee has a number of vacancies to fill. The appointment of a replacement for Kirilenko, who has responsibility on the party Secretariat for oversight of industry, will be important because Andropov has no significant experience in economic management. [REDACTED]

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The choice of a successor to Party Control Committee chairman Pelshe also could be important if Andropov decides to make the campaign against corruption a top priority. Perhaps the clearest measure of the General Secretary's strength, however, will be his ability to promote proteges to a place on the Politburo itself. [REDACTED]

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The Supreme Soviet probably will be asked to endorse the Politburo's choice of a new president. Andropov, party secretary Chernenko, Foreign Minister Gromyko, and Defense Minister Ustinov all have been rumored for the post. [REDACTED]

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CHINA: Defense and Foreign Ministers Replaced

The men named yesterday to head the Ministries of Defense and Foreign Affairs are loyal members of the reform group led by Deng Xiaoping.

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The new Defense Minister, Zhang Aiping, 72, is concurrently a deputy secretary general of the party's powerful Military Commission and a former head of the National Defense Science and Technology Commission. The new Foreign Minister, Wu Xueqian, 60, is a protege of party General Secretary Hu Yaobang.

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The replacement of Geng Biao as Defense Minister and Huang Hua as Foreign Minister had been anticipated in China. Both men have been having political difficulties, and both are in poor health.

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Comment: //The Foreign Ministry has been split into pro- and anti-Huang factions. The timing of Huang's departure probably is related more to this division than to differences over policy.//

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The Defense Ministry is important largely for protocol reasons. Real power continues to reside in the party's military commission, where Zhang will help preside over the Army's day-to-day business. He presumably will retain oversight of military research and development programs, which he has directed since about 1975.

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The new Defense Minister will remain an important spokesman on military policy. Zhang brings a technocratic viewpoint to his new post that is appropriate for the current emphasis on closely linking science and technology to military modernization. His appointment probably will be welcomed by those in the Army hierarchy who advocate technological modernization.

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WEST GERMANY - TURKEY: Delay in Aid

//Foreign Minister Genscher has asked the OECD to delay its meeting of the Turkish aid consortium currently scheduled for 30 November. Genscher will visit Ankara today, and the West German cabinet is expected to consider aid to Turkey next Wednesday or a week later. The Bundestag is to approve the final aid package by mid-December. The head of the consortium says most other donor countries will accept postponement, perhaps to 20 or 21 December.//

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Comment: //The Bundestag probably will approve the aid package next month as planned. The long delay in reaching a decision--originally scheduled for last spring--has held up the aid pledge from Japan, which is waiting for details of West German aid before announcing its own. The government under former Chancellor Schmidt had delayed action because some of its supporters in the Bundestag opposed Ankara's human rights practices, but the leftist opposition has much less leverage under the current conservative coalition. Genscher probably is going to Ankara in part so that he can report back immediately on Turkish human rights observance, as required by the Bundestag before it votes on the aid.//

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PORTUGAL-US: Use of Base Threatened

//Lisbon is preparing for talks with the US on a new bilateral security agreement by emphasizing it will use Lajes Airfield in the Azores for leverage to get more military assistance. The Portuguese are indicating they may withhold permission to use the base for other than NATO missions. In giving consent on Tuesday for Rapid Deployment Force units to transit Lajes en route to an exercise in Southwest Asia, the Foreign Ministry stressed the base would not be available much longer unless more aid is provided. The current agreement expires in February.// [redacted]

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Comment: //The Portuguese have taken this approach before, but they appear determined this time to engage in tough bargaining for equipment needed by all three services for NATO missions. They have tried to resist accepting the loans that make up a large part of the annual loan package, and they intend to exploit the US need for Lajes Airfield to get better terms.// [redacted]

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YUGOSLAVIA: Support for Military Modernization

//The Yugoslav Government has announced it intends to fund an arms modernization program, even though its austerity policy is designed to slash overall investment as well as consumption next year. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] some party leaders have been concerned about the military's reaction to new budget cuts. Key military officers late last month grudgingly agreed to reductions in operating expenditures, but they warned that all sectors of society should make similar sacrifices.// [REDACTED]

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Comment: Party leaders presumably are seeking to maintain military morale by not cutting vital defense programs and perhaps also are attempting to remind the new leadership in the USSR of Yugoslavia's resolve to remain independent. Belgrade's decision, however, may be criticized by other interest groups more deeply affected by the austerity program. [REDACTED]

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PORTUGAL-MOZAMBIQUE: Military Assistance

//Portugal agreed early this month to provide ammunition, other supplies, and training to the Mozambican armed forces under a protocol signed last April. Portuguese officials say delivery of the aid is not assured because neither country is definitely able to pay for the promised assistance.// [REDACTED]

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Comment: //Portugal, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe have provided limited quantities of military assistance since the beginning of the year, but Mozambique has failed to obtain military aid from other non-Communist countries. The Mozambicans may continue to push for African troops at a meeting of military leaders from the Front-line States, reportedly planned for early next month in Tanzania. Maputo's prospects for obtaining such help, however, are poor. It probably will turn to its Communist supporters for additional aid, and it may ask Cuba to provide combat troops if the security situation continues to deteriorate.// [REDACTED]

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ECUADOR: President's Position Strengthened

//The cancellation last week of a threatened national strike as a result of government concessions on prices and wages, as well as the administration's decision to negotiate with major labor leaders, has given President Hurtado more time to deal with the economy.

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Comment: //Hurtado still faces long-term problems in managing the economy and dealing with the military. Additional austerity measures are necessary to meet IMF requirements, and labor's demands for a large increase in the minimum wage would--if satisfied--aggravate inflation. Any renewal of labor unrest probably would revive military plotting.

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